

Message Text

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ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CAB-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

DODE-00 DOTE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 FAA-00 LAB-04

SIL-01 OC-06 CCO-00 /041 W

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R 162141Z SEP 77

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4781

AMCONSUL MONTREAL

ALL OTHER AMCONSUL IN CANADA POUCH

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E.O. 11652:N/A

TAGS: EAIR, ELAB, CA

SUBJECT: AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICES

REF: OTTAWA 7685

1. ON SEPTEMBER 16, 1977 THE PRESIDENT OF THE CANADIAN AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL ASSOCIATION EXPLAINED TO THE EMBASSY LABOR OFFICER THE STATUS OF HIS UNION'S POSITION WITH REGARD TO THE HOUSE OF COMMONS BILL C-63 OBLIGING THE AIR CONTROLLERS TO CONTINUE NORMAL AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL SERVICE. HE SAID THAT ALL OF HIS MEMBERS, WITH THE EXCEPTION OF THE AIR TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS IN TORONTO, ARE WORKING AS THEY NORMALLY DID PRIOR TO THE DISPUTE. THE TORONTO MEMBERS HAVE NOT RESPONDED TO HIS INSTRUCTIONS TO RESUME NORMAL OPERATIONS AND, IN HIS OPINION, ARE NOT LIKELY TO DO SO IN THE FORESEEABLE FUTURE. WHEN ASKED ABOUT THE DISRUPTION OF CONNECTING FLIGHTS IN AND OUT OF TORONTO AND AT OTHER CANADIAN AIRPORTS HIS RESPONSE WAS THAT THE DISRUPTION WAS MINIMAL AT OTHER AIRPORTS AND CERTAINLY NOT THE FAULT OR RESPONSIBILITY OF THE TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS OUTSIDE OF TORONTO. FURTHER COMPLICATING THE PROBLEM, IN HIS OPINION,

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IS THE INTENTION OF SENIOR MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT OFFICIALS TO VISIT TORONTO EARLY NEXT WEEK, SEPTEMBER 19, FOR DIRECT DISCUSSION WITH THE TORONTO TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS. HE BELIEVES THAT ANY AGREEMENT OF CONDITIONS OVER AND ABOVE THOSE STIPULATED IN BILL C-63 RESULTING FROM THIS POSSIBLE MEETING WILL SERIOUSLY DIMINISH HIS AUTHORITY AS THE UNION'S CHIEF NEGOTIATOR AND COULD EASILY SPARK WORK-TO-

RULE ACTIONS AT OTHER CANADIAN AIRPORTS.

2. COMMENT: THERE DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE ANY TEMPORARY RELAXATION OF THE TORONTO PROBLEM AT THIS TIME UNLESS, OF COURSE, THE MINISTRY OF TRANSPORT'S DIRECT NEGOTIATION ATTEMPT, IF IT TAKES PLACE, RESULTS IN A CHANGED ATTITUDE ON THE PART OF THE TORONTO TRAFFIC CONTROLLERS WITHOUT CHANGING THE LEGISLATED CONDITIONS OF WORK. THE LABOR-MANAGEMENT RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNION AND THE TRANSPORT/TREASURY MANAGEMENT ARE AT A LOW POINT AND MAY WORSEN WHEN NEGOTIATIONS FOR A 1978 CONTRACT BEGIN IN NOVEMBER 1977. MEANWHILE FLIGHT DELAYS SOMETIMES SEVERAL HOURS IN DURATION CONTINUE IN TORONTO WHICH IN TURN AFFECT THE TIME SCHEDULES OF OTHER CANADIAN FLIGHTS. ENDERS

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